# BLYTH AND CUCKNEY
# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

## FOR THE YEAR 1913.

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Area in Acres, exclusive of Water, 28,208.

Estimated Population in 1912, 4,986.

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

# *Blyth and Cuckney*

# *Rural District Council.*

The District contains the Subjoined Parishes :

| | Population 1901 | Population 1911 | Represented by |
|---|---|---|---|
| Harworth ... ... | 591 | 579 | Mr. Frederick T. Parkin, *Vice-Chairman.* |
| Blyth ... ... ... | 571 | 638 | Mr. Joshua M. Levers |
| Styrrup-with-Oldcotes ... | 444 | 501 | Mr. Robert John Camm |
| Hodsock... ... ... | 227 | 230 | Colonel Mellish, J.P. |
| Wallingwells ... ... | 18 | 19 | Mr. John Barker Chester |
| Carlton ... ... ... | 969 | 1013 | Mr. R. C. P. Ramsden, J.P. |
| Carburton ... ... | 148 | 141 | Mr. C. Flintoff |
| Norton ... ... ... | 277 | 315 | |
| Cuckney... ... ... | 489 | 487 | Mr. Robt. Collingham, J.P. |
| Welbeck... ... ... | 97 | 104 | Mr. G. Henry Hall |
| Holbeck ... ... ... | 224 | 233 | Mr. G. Boaler |
| Woodhouse Hall ... | 185 | 163 | Mr. William Ghest, *Chairman.* |
| Langwith, Nether ... | 322 | 533 | Mr. Rhodes Waterhouse. |

| Area in Statute Acres, without water, 28,208. | Estimated Population, June 30th, 1913, 5,013. |
|---|---|

# *Blyth & Cuckney Rural District Council.*

# REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

**FOR 1913.**

Area in Acres, exclusive of Water, 28,208.

Estimated Population in 1913, 5,013.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Blyth and Cuckney Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

In presenting this, my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year 1913, I find it rather difficult, as I only commenced my duties on July 1st, in succession to Dr. Wills, and I am not in complete touch with the District even yet, but hope by the time the next Annual Report comes round, to have mastered all the details.

The estimated population in June, 1913, was 5,013.

The number of houses erected during the year was 12.

The Births registered were 108, which gives a Birth Rate of 21·5. 60 males and 48 females, one being illegitimate. Of these 11 died under the age of 1 year. For the causes of death I refer you to Table IV.

In many districts there are appointed Health Visitors. Personally I am very doubtful if any great advantage is to be gained by making such appointments, as the whole of your District is practically covered by District nurses, who are always ready to advise on the feeding and general care of infants.

# MORTALITY.

The Death Rate is obtained after adding the deaths of persons in institutions outside the District of persons formerly resident.

The number of Deaths during the year was 68, which gives a Death Rate of 13·5, which is slightly higher than that of last year. There were no uncertified deaths.

The Zymotic Death Rate was ·79.

The Death Rate from Phthisis was ·99.

On going through the death returns, what struck me most, was the great age of many of the late residents of the District. On taking an average of 33, it worked out at 75·6, which speaks volumes for the healthy conditions under which they lived.

I refer you to Table I. for the Vital Statistics of the previous five years, which can be contrasted with those for 1913.

# SANITARY CONDITIONS.

The sanitary conditions of the District remain very much unchanged.

The Water Supply of Blyth, Welbeck, Norton, and Holbeck is taken from the sandstone at Carburton, and Blyth, and should be extended to the villages on the magnesium limestone, where it is difficult to obtain good water for drinking and domestic purposes.

The villages chiefly requiring better water are Carlton, Oldcotes, and Nether Langwith. Some cases of Diphtheria occurred in the latter village, and on the water being analysed, it was found to be very unsatisfactory. But as parts of your District are likely to be much more thickly populated in the near future, the question of an expensive water scheme had better be deferred.

# RIVERS, STREAMS, AND DRAINAGE.

The only place where schemes for the purification of the sewage are at present carried out, is the colliery village at Langwith, where the sewage is treated by deposition, filtration, and broad irrigation. Part only of the village is in your District. The portion of the parish of Harworth, adjoining Bawtry, is treated by the Doncaster Rural Council.

Deposition is used at Norton Cuckney, Harworth, and Blyth.

I understand plans were prepared for purifying sewage at Carlton, but as yet nothing has been done; and as this village may increase in size and population due to colliery developments in the immediate vicinity, a very much larger scheme will probably be required than the one already prepared.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There still are in the District many privy middens. These ought to be substituted by water closets where possible, or pails. I am of opinion that the Council ought to insist on water closets for all new houses.

## SCAVENGING.

Public scavenging is only adopted at Carlton, Blyth, and Langwith.

Complaints have reached me that the scavenging at Carlton is at fault, inasmuch as the contents of the pails are mixed in the ashpit, instead of being removed into the cart at once.

Iron Scavenging Carts should be used in all the villages, with lids, which prevent the excreta from falling on to the streets and roads, and becoming a serious danger to the public health.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I have inspected many of the Schools during my term of office, and they are in a satisfactory condition.

Workshops, Cowsheds, and Dairies have been inspected and reported upon from time to time as occasion required, by your Sanitary Inspector.

The only Schools that it was found necessary to close, were Carburton, on account of the prevalence of Whooping Cough.

I am anxious in future that I should receive notice from schools of any cases of Infectious Disease that may be suspected, as then one would be able to deal with sporadic cases and probably prevent them becoming epidemic.

## MILK SUPPLY.

A large amount of milk is supplied from the dairies in your District. I understand the Cowsheds are clean and well kept, and the cattle are free from Tuberculosis. In some instances more air and light would be a general improvement, as both are splendid disinfectants.

## HOUSING.

A scarcity of houses exists in your District, as in many others in the country. Several of the houses which I have visited seem fairly satisfactory, but as no systematic house-to-house inspection has been done, it is impossible to say much. Now that the Council have decided to appoint a whole time Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, a thorough house-to-house inspection will be made during 1914. I am looking forward to this appointment as a step in the right direction, as the general sanitary condition of the District can be thoroughly overhauled.

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 11 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, 8 pulmonary, and 3 other forms of Tuberculosis. This is satisfactory as compared with 14 cases notified during 1912, but is far too high. On each case being notified, either I or the Sanitary Inspector have visited the homes and advised measures being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Each patient ought to occupy a bedroom alone, but on several occasions I found it was impossible, because of lack of sleeping accommodation.

Disinfectants, spittoons, and handkerchiefs have been supplied to all patients desiring them, at the expense of your Council. Houses have been thoroughly disinfected after the removal of patients to the Sanatorium or the death of patients. Shelters are sometimes of advantage, but I am afraid as the weather grows colder, the patients could be found more often in their own homes than in the shelter, at night. When this happens, the money spent on providing the shelter seems wasted. Still it behoves all to do what is in their power to arrest this dread disease.

The treatment of Phthisis, to be of any avail, must be commenced at the onset, but unfortunately, sometimes patients do not get expert advice until the disease has become well advanced. Six patients received Sanatorium treatment, but I am sorry to say the results have not all been satisfactory.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-two cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year. One less than in 1912.

The Tubercular Diseases are included in the above number.

Scarlet Fever was responsible for 13.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | occurred | at | Carburton |
| 3 | ,, | ,, | Cuckney |
| 3 | ,, | ,, | Blyth and Hodsock |
| 1 | ,, | ,, | Welbeck |

Nine of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the other 4 were nursed at home. Considering that Scarlet Fever has been epidemic in all the surrounding districts, I think we have escaped very lightly. The Carburton Cases, I believe, might be traced to contact at Worksop.

The Hodsock cases could be traced to the Ilkeston district of Derbyshire.

## DIPHTHERIA.

8 cases of Diphtheria occurred:

3 at Cuckney and Langwith
1 at Carlton
3 at Blyth and Hodsock
1 at Welbeck

6 were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where 2 died.

It would be a great advantage, if in the future, the Sanitary Inspector kept a supply of Anti-Diphtheritic Serum for the treatment of patients, to be supplied to poor people free of cost. I am quite convinced that lives would be saved in many cases by its use. It is also a preventative if used in contacts.

## WHOOPING COUGH

Was prevalent in Carburton, the Schools being closed.

## CHICKEN POX

Was prevalent in the Harworth district in the early part of the year.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is chiefly at present agricultural, but in the near future its character will be changed, especially at Carlton, Cuckney, and Harworth, where collieries are being sunk. It understand that plans are in course of preparation for one thousand houses at Harworth.

The District is sparsely populated, one person per 5·6 acres. It is well wooded, and I have no doubt that the approach of the coal industry will spoil its natural beauty. It will, however, introduce profitable work to the labourer, and wealth to the owners of the land and minerals.

I am most anxious that the Council should endeavour to have those new villages built under the most sanitary conditions possible, as my experience tends to show that many villages have been built too thickly, without due regard for the health and well-being of the inhabitants.

Well made roads and streets; properly paved or asphalted yards, all tend to improve the sanitary condition of the District.

Above all, it is absolutely imperative that a plentiful and wholesome supply of water should be provided.

How often one finds grave nuisances occurring, which if the Sanitary Authority did their duty in the first instance, would never happen.

No house should be certified as habitable unless all the bye-laws are complied with. It is very difficult to get things remedied after the houses are inhabited. In the past the District has been without bye-laws, but now that the Local Government Board have sanctioned a set, we should have no trouble in getting the building done as it ought to be.

It would be a thousand pities if any of the new villages in a few years time should become slums. If we start by insisting on what is right, we will not have much trouble afterwards.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks my indebtedness to Colonel Mellish for his meteorological tables.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council for your kindness and consideration since my appointment? I hope as time goes on to merit your confidence.

I am,

Yours obediently,

W. T. WOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

# TABLE I.

## BLYTH AND CUCKNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

| Year | Population estimated to Middle of each Year | Births | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District | | Transferable Deaths | | Nett Deaths belonging to the District | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Uncorrected Number | Nett | | | | | | Under 1 year of age | | At all ages | |
| | | | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | of Non-residents registered in the District | of Residents not registered in the District | Number | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births | Number | Rate |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1908 | 4867 | 114 | | 23·4 | 67 | 13·7 | | 8 | 8 | 70·1 | 71 | 14·5 |
| 1909 | 4896 | 110 | | 22·4 | 72 | 14·7 | | 10 | 5 | 45·4 | 81 | 16·5 |
| 1910 | 4926 | 109 | | 21·4 | 43 | 8·7 | | 4 | 7 | 64·2 | 47 | 9·5 |
| 1911 | 4956 | 113 | 117 | 23·6 | 68 | 13·5 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 119·6 | 72 | 14·1 |
| 1912 | 4986 | 100 | | 20·0 | 57 | 11·4 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 40·0 | 63 | 12·6 |
| 1913 | 5013 | 108 | | 21·5 | 59 | 11·7 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 101·8 | 68 | 13·5 |

## AT CENSUS OF 1911.

Total population at all ages ... ... 4,956

Number of inhabited houses ... ... 1,100

Average number of persons per house ... 4·5

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 28,208.

## TABLE II.

## BLYTH AND CUCKNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE | NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED | | | | | | | | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY | | | | | | | Total Cases removed to Hospital |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | At all Ages | At Ages—Years | | | | | | | Carburton | Harworth and Oldcotes | Norton Cuckney and Langwith | Blyth and Hodsock | Styrrup and Carlton | Holbeck and Woodhouse | Welbeck | |
| | | Under 1 | 1 and under 5 years | 5 and under 15 years | 15 and under 25 years | 25 and under 45 years | 45 and under 65 years | 65 and upwards | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) . | 8 | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 6 |
| Scarlet Fever . . . | 13 | | 1 | 10 | 2 | | | | 6 | | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | 9 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis . | 8 | | | 1 | 5 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | | 5 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis . | 3 | | | 1 | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 |
| Totals . . . | 32 | | 2 | 16 | 9 | 5 | | | 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 21 |

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, etc.—Carlton Isolation Hospital, Joint Blyth and Cuckney and Worksop Urban. Poor Law Sanatorium, Kilton Hill, Worksop. Notts. Sanatorium, Mansfield.

# TABLE III.

## BLYTH AND CUCKNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1913.

| Causes of Death | Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District. | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All ages | Under 1 year | 1 and under 2 | 2 and under 5 | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 45 | 45 and under 65 | 65 and upwards | |
| All causes { Certified . . . . Uncertified . . . . | 68 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 29 | |
| Scarlet Fever . . . . . | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Whooping Cough . . . . . | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria and Croup . . . . | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage . . . . | 4 | | | | | | | | 4 | |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) . | 5 | | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases . . | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Cancer, malignant disease . . . | 4 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | |
| Meningitis . . . . . | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Organic Heart Disease . . . | 7 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Bronchitis . . . . . | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Pneumonia (all forms) . . . . | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Other diseases of Respiratory organs . | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Appendicitis and Tyhplitis . . . | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver . . . . | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Senile Decay . . . . . | 14 | | | | | | | | 14 | |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease . . | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth . | 5 | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide . | 5 | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | | |
| Other Defined Diseases . . . | 9 | 3 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | |
| Diseases ill-defined or unknown . . | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | 68 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 29 | 3 |

# TABLE IV.

## BLYTH AND CUCKNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

| CAUSE OF DEATH | Under 1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under 4 weeks | 4 weeks and under 3 months | 3 months and under 6 months | 6 months and under 9 months | 9 months and under 12 months | Total Deaths under 1 year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All causes {Certified . . . 11 / Uncertified . .} | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | | | 11 |
| Whooping Cough . . . . . | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis . . . | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Convulsions . . . . . | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) . . . . | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Premature Birth . . . . . | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus . . | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 |
| Other causes . . . . . | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | | | 11 |

Nett Births in the year {legitimate, 107. / illegitimate, 1.}

Nett Deaths in the year {legitimate infants, 11. / illegitimate infants, 0.}

## England and Wales and Blyth and Cuckney,

## A Comparison of Vital Statistics.

### Birth-rate, Death-rate and Infantile Mortality during the year 1913. (Provisional Figures.)

| | Annual Rate per 1000 living | | | Deaths under one year to 1000 Births |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BIRTHS | DEATHS | | |
| | | Crude | Standardized | |
| England and Wales . . . | 23·9 | 13·7 | 13·4 | 109 |
| 96 great towns including London | 25·1 | 14·3 | 14·7 | 116 |
| 145 smaller towns . . . | 23·9 | 12·8 | 13·0 | 112 |
| England and Wales less the 241 towns . | 22·2 | 13·1 | 12·1 | 96 |
| London . . . . . | 24·8 | 14·2 | 14·2 | 104 |
| Blyth and Cuckney . . . | 21·5 | 11·7 | 13·5 | 101·8 |

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for the Rural District of Blyth and Cuckney, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

## INSPECTION.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.*

| PREMISES | Number of Inspections |
|---|---|
| Workshops . . . . . | 54 |
| Total . . . . . | 54 |

## DEFECTS FOUND.

| PARTICULARS | Number of Defects | |
|---|---|---|
| | Found | Remedied |
| Want of Cleanliness . . . . . | 1 | 1 |
| Total . . . . . | 1 | 1 |

## REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

| Workshops on the Register at the end of the year. | Number |
|---|---|
| Wheelwright, Blacksmith, Dressmakers, Basket-maker, Shoemakers . . . . . | 26 |
| Bakehouses . . . . . | 2 |
| Total number of Workshops on Register . | 28 |

# BLYTH AND CUCKNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

## Surveyor's and Inspector's Reports for 1913.

| NUISANCES | Harworth and Hesley | Styrrup-with-Oldcotes | Blyth | Hodsock | Carlton | Cuckney | Woodhouse Hall & Holbeck | Nether Langwith | Welbeck | Norton | Carburton |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Private Drainage improved and cleansed, and Slopstone Pipes trapped | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Public Sewers flushed and Manholes cleaned out | 1 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Public Sewers repaired and cleansed | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Sewage Outfall and Dykes cleaned | 8 | 40 | | | | | | | | | |
| Ashpits and Privies repaired and old ones improved, cleaned, and built | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Private and Public Wells inspected, cleaned out, improved, and new ones sunk | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Private and Public Cesspools repaired and cleaned | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Notice to Whitewash Cow-houses, Stables, &c. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cowsheds inspected | 4 | 2 | 6 | | 10 | 4 | 6 | | | 2 | 2 |
| Scavenging done by District Council | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Inspection of Ashpits emptied by Contractors | | | 2 | | 3 | | | | | | |
| ,, ,, ,, Tenants | 2 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 1 |
| New Houses and additions to houses built | 1 | | | | 1 | | 7 | 1 | | | |
| Houses disinfected and supplied with disinfectants | | | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | |
| Calls on infectious cases | 3 | | 6 | | 2 | | | 2 | | | 5 |
| Plans of Houses, drains, etc. to be built, added to or altered and submitted to council | | | | | 2 | | 3 | 2 | | | 1 |
| Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses inspected | | 1 | 4 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| Articles of clothing, bedding, etc. disinfected | 9 | | 114 | 84 | 3 | 102 | 19 | 51 | | | 80 |
| Workshops inspected | 2 | 4 | 6 | | 12 | | 1 | | | 2 | |
| Clothing sent to disinfector | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases sent to Infectious Diseases Hospital | | | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | 2 | | | 3 |
| Cases of Overcrowding | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Infectious Diseases Cases not sent to Hospital | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| New Drains laid | | | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| No. of Reports to Council 23 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of Notices sent out 16 | | | | | | | | | | | |